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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3/11 5-9-01

In re Application of:

Akira Nishiyama et al.

Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned

For: Processes for the Preparation of : Atty Docket: 1581/00240

5-Hydroxy-3-Oxopentanoic

Acid Derivatives

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "2 or 3".

Claim 8, line 1, delete "or 7".

Claim 9, line 1, delete "7 or 8".

/Claim 12, line 1, delete "or 11".

Claim 13, line 1, delete "11 or 12".

Claim 14, line 1, delete "any of Claims 1 to 13" and insert --- Claim 1---.

Claim 15, line 1, delete "any of Claims 1 to 14" and insert --- Claim 1---.

Claim 16, line 1, delete "any of Claims 1 to 13" and insert --- Claim 1---.

Claim 17, line 1, delete "any of Claims 1 to 16" and insert --- Claim 1---.